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Mar 11 02 05:01p Jonine Rauch 630-505-1464 p.1

Practitioner's Docket No. 4492P1090CB PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Rindorf, Thomas L; Hager, Jeffrey L.  
Applicant No. 06740,636  
Filed: 09/30/1997  
Group No. 1741  
Examiner: Lesley  
For: SUB-CONTRACTOR PLATING SUPPORT HAVING WORKPIECE-ENGAGING  
ELEMENT WITH PRE-CONDITIONED CONTACT FACE

ADDRESS: Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20530

STATUS INQUIRY

1. More than twelve months have passed since the filing of a response on January 22, 2001. No further communication has been received from the Patent and Trademark Office.

2. Notify advise the undersigned of the present status of this application, by checking the response due on the first page. A stamped return-receipt envelope is provided.

1. INFORMATION OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION OF CYE 1.8(a)

2. If you have already sent an electronic filing, this information is for the record.

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Attorney, Docket No. 291958192US00

Express Mail Label EL393527356US**PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Thomas L. Ritzdorf *et al.*  
APPLICATION No.: 08/940,686  
FILED: September 30, 1997  
FOR: SEMICONDUCTOR PLATING SYSTEM WORKPIECE  
SUPPORT HAVING WORKPIECE-ENGAGING  
ELECTRODE WITH PRECONDITIONED CONTACT  
FACE

EXAMINER: W. Leader  
ART UNIT: 1741  
CONF. No: N/A  
CLIENT REF. No.: P97-0011

**Status Inquiry**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants request an update on the status of the present application because it has been over twenty-one months since applicants filed a response on January 22, 2001.

1. **Background**

In a teleconference on October 2, 2002, Examiner William Leader told Semitool, Inc. that the US Patent Office database did not show that the Patent Office had received a response to the Office Action dated October 3, 2000. Examiner Leader also informed Semitool that the application is currently at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. Applicants believe that the Patent Office database is incorrect because a response to the October 3, 2000, Office Action was received by the Patent Office on January 25, 2001. Additionally, a Status Inquiry was filed on March 11, 2002, and a Revocation and Substitute Power of Attorney was filed on May 10, 2002. Applicants hereby request that the status of the application be corrected to accurately reflect the filings by the applicants.

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Attorney, Docket No. 291958192US00

2. Statement of Facts Supporting The Timely Filing of a Response

On January 22, 2001, Mr. Robert B. Polit filed a response entitled RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 3, 2000 (Exhibit A). Mr. Polit also filed a petition for a one-month extension of time and a fee transmittal sheet authorizing the Patent Office to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1606 in the amount of \$110.00 for the extension of time fee. Mr. Polit subsequently received a return postcard stamped by the OIPE dated January 25, 2001 (Exhibit B). Additionally, Deposit Account No. 50-1606 was debited \$110.00 on January 29, 2001, for fee code 115 regarding U.S. Application No. 08/940,686 (Exhibit C).

The evidence unambiguously establishes that a response to the Office Action dated October 3, 2000, was received by the Patent Office on January 25, 2001. Applicants accordingly request that the response dated January 22, 2001, be entered in the application.

3. Additional Papers Filed by Applicants

In addition to the response dated January 22, 2001, a Status Inquiry was filed via facsimile on March 11, 2002 (Exhibit D), and a Revocation and Substitute Power of

Attorney; Docket No. 291958192US00

Attorney was filed on May 10, 2002 (Exhibit E). Applicants also request that these documents be entered in the file.

Respectfully submitted,

Perkins Coie LLP

Date:

10/5/02

P. T. Parker

Paul T. Parker

Registration No. 38,264

Enclosures:

Exhibit A - Response dated January 22, 2001

Exhibit B - Return postcard with OIPE stamp

Exhibit C - Copy of Deposit Account Statement (Account No. 50-1606)

Exhibit D - Status Inquiry Dated March 11, 2002

Exhibit E - Revocation and Substitute Power of Attorney dated May 10, 2002

**Correspondence Address:**

Customer No. 25096

Perkins Coie LLP

P.O. Box 1247

Seattle, Washington 98111-1247

(206) 583-8888

**EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL393527356US Docket No.: 291958192US**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PTP:mja  
SENT: Oct 3, 2002



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Please acknowledge receipt of the below-listed documents by placing your receiving stamp hereon and mailing:

Status Inquiry; in re: ;Ritzdorf et al., App. No. 08/940,686; Filed:  
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Perkins Coie LLP